

MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 16, 2020
HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM APPLICATION

Commission Members Present: Michael Timmons, William McFarland, James Kelley, Jr., Edward Kelleher, and Richard Shiers

Commission Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Ron Guay, AAG, Henry Jennings, Carol Gauthier, Joy Bonenfant, Miles Greenleaf, Jaime Wood, and Zachary Matzkin

1. **Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:** Michael Timmons
2. **Request from Maine's OTB for Startup Cost Support.** Maine's four off-track betting facilities are requesting startup cost support from Commission of \$5,000 per owner (there are three owners) for a total of \$15,000. The support would be used to defray the costs associated with complying with the COVID-19 protocols, and the anticipated reduction of revenues arising from the reduction of maximum occupancy. The Commission will consider whether to approve the proposed cost support on a one-time basis.
Mr. Jennings stated he looked at the remaining money that was originally allocated to provide cost support to the eight pari-mutuel fairs that are not going to be racing this year. He looked at the budget and he's confident that they could supply this \$5,000 per owner. Commissioner Timmons moved the motion. Commissioner Shiers seconded. AAG, Guay called the roll.

RECORD OF ROLL CALL VOTE

Motion:

Commission Authorizes the Provision of COVID-19 startup cost support from the Commission's budget in the amount of \$5,000 for each owner of a Commission licensed Off Track Betting Facility.

This order is adopted and effective upon call of the roll.

Commissioners:

Michael Timmons	YEA
William McFarland	YEA
Richard Shiers	YEA
James Kelley, Jr.	YEA
Edward Kelleher	YEA

Motion passed 5-0.

3. **Updates/Discussion of the 2020 Racing Plans.** There will be a general discussion of current thinking/plans for both overnight and Sire Stakes racing for 2020 season.
Mr. Jennings stated he has had discussions with Penn National trying to come up with a plan to reopen as soon as possible. With Commission approval his budget will support \$2,500 per day for cost support for operating a race day. Chris McErlean representing Bangor Raceway

stated his main issue is the testing center. If they can race, they will need some time for preparation for the racing areas. They cannot commit today. AAG, Guay stated that he would like to bring attention to the Commission regarding a rule he stumbled over at the last meeting and it's something that Bangor would need to be mindful of and that is the Commission has adopted a rule notwithstanding the fact you didn't adopt an emergency rule, there is an existing rule that requires that prior to the first meet day that a purse distribution plan be approved by the Commission. Mr. Jennings stated that Scarborough Downs has submitted a purse distribution plan just this week. Commissioner Timmons stated it is critical for the industry to get these dates. Mr. Sweeney stated they need operating revenue to begin racing. AAG, Guay asked Mr. Sweeney if they have adequate purse money. Mr. Sweeney stated yes for 30 days. Mr. McErlean stated they have about \$150,000 in purse funds at this point. AAG, Guay stated he strongly suggest the Commission take a look at that emergency rule. Mr. Jennings stated they need to come up with a legal vehicle to be able to move purse money from tracks that don't need it this year to tracks that do and are able to race. AAG, Guay stated he believes the legal vehicle is the purse distribution plan.

4. Adjudicatory Hearings:

RE: Reopening of the 2020 Race Date Assignment Hearing: The Executive Director filed notice of reopening the 2020 race date hearing for the purpose of revisiting the 2020 race date awards in light of the impacts that COVID-19 pandemic is having on Maine's tracks. At this time, no specific requests have been made.

5. Other Business

None.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Schedule of Future Meetings:

July 21, 2020

8. Adjourn

2:00 p.m.